

separating membrane stages, the retentate of the first membrane stage is fed to the second membrane stage in order to obtain a mixture with a high SF₆ content as retentate from the second membrane stage; the permeate of the first membrane stage is introduced into the third membrane stage; the permeate of the second membrane stage and the retentate of the third membrane stage are recirculated to the feed stream of the first membrane stage, and the permeate of the third membrane stage can be released into the environment.

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5. (Amended) A process according to claim 1, wherein the process is utilized during the use of a gas insulated line to purify an insulating gas mixture of SF₆ and N₂.

6. (Amended) A process according to claim 1, wherein the process is utilized after completed use of a gas insulated line in order to recover SF₆ prior to disposal of the used gas insulated line.

7. (Amended) A system comprising a gas insulated line, a membrane separation apparatus and at least one connecting line between the gas insulated line and the membrane separation apparatus, wherein said separation apparatus is a mobile membrane separation apparatus.